

of Metropolitan Baltimore and the other organizations and individuals responsible for bringing this group of business leaders together for a discussion of legislation that may affect their business and their private lives. I extend my commendation also to the businessmen whose patriotic concern for the well-being of their State is manifest by their presence at these sessions. I have made a swift examination of your program and its leaders, and I am certain that all of you will return to your homes from this conference better informed about your State government and better equipped to do your part in shaping its future for the betterment of Maryland and its people.

We are fortunate in having with us as a main speaker Senator Reynolds DuPont, of our neighboring State, Delaware. I, myself, will be brief with my remarks, but I should like, in a summary fashion, to tell you some of the things your State government is trying to do to create the kind of climate in which you can prosper in your business endeavors. As we all know, government, by action or inaction, can be of help to business and commerce. It follows, of course, that it can also be of hindrance. There are, as I see it, three principal ways it can help: (1) by the direct stimulation of the industrial and commercial activities of the community it serves, (2) by the creation of an atmosphere in which people, individually and collectively, are inspired to creative acts, and (3) by a sound and prudent management of the fiscal affairs of the government.

Your State government of course will not take credit for the unprecedented prosperity that we have enjoyed for the past several years. The vigor of our economy is nationwide. But it should be pointed out, I think, that in 1959, Maryland for the first time adopted aggressive measures in the field of industrial promotion, a move which I think undoubtedly added strength to an expanding economy. The Economic Development, with industrial and tourist development as a primary responsibility, was created by an act of the General Assembly in 1959 and began functioning as an agency of State government the following year. The effort to attract new industry and more jobs — the hard labor of digging out facts that industrialists want to know about Maryland's people, its natural resources, labor market, taxes, educational facilities and an infinite variety of similar data — this unheralded effort offered for the first time a comprehensive picture of the Free State's industrial potential. Since 1960 the State has provided information and planning assistance to more than 600 companies interested in developing new plant sites in Maryland. A total of 338 business executives have come to the State for tours and to